

**ST OSWALD & ST EDMUND ARROWSMITH
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

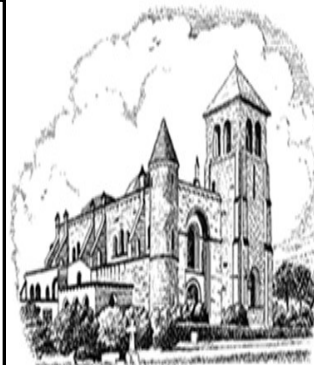
Liverpool Road, Ashton-In-Makerfield, Wigan, WN4 9NP
Liverpool R.C. Archdiocesan Trustees Reg. Charity No. 232709

Parish Priest: Rev. John Gorman Tel: 01942 727271

Deacons: Revv. Paul Blinston, Jim Byrne, John O'Brien (rtd)

Parish Office: 01942 727249 Open: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9am—2pm

Parish Website: www.stoswaldandstarrowsmith.org.uk



Week commencing: 14th June 2020

SOLEMNITY of the MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD of CHRIST (A)

Parish Mass Book: Page 83 Order of Mass: Page 7

Preface 2 of the Most Holy Eucharist: Page 65 Eucharistic Prayer 1: Page 18

CORPUS CHRISTI (A)

Saturday	6.00pm	Michael O'Brien
Sunday	9.30am	Fr Joe Donlan
	11.00am	Alfred & Ann Conroy
	6.30pm	Parishioners

Weekday Masses

Monday	9.00am	Eileen Witherington
Tuesday	9.30am	In Thanksgiving (ATM)
Wednesday	9.30am	Ward Family, Margaret Ford & Jack
Thursday	St. John Rigby, Martyr 9.30am	Ketuoh & Naapaal People
Friday	MOST SACRED HEART of JESUS 9.00am	Anthony Pigott
Saturday	Immaculate Heart of Mary 10.00am	Joseph Mather

12th SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME (A)

Saturday	6.00pm	Parishioners
Sunday	9.30am	Kath Ashton
	11.00am	Alfred Boyd
	6.30pm	Lynn Dean

Services during the week

Confessions: There are no Confessions until further notice.

Rosary: There is no public recitation of the Rosary until further notice.

Holy Hour: There are no public Holy Hours until further notice.

Novena: There is no Novena until further notice.

Amnesty

Some time ago, we showed Bishop Robert Barron's series *Catholicism* in Our Lady's Parish Centre. I seem to remember lending out copies of some of the discs, but don't remember to whom (I've reached that age!)

If you have one, could I ask you to post it anonymously through the Presbytery door, and no-one will be any the wiser. Many thanks.

Alpha Online

Youth 2000 are hosting an on-line Alpha Course for anyone aged 16 to 35 looking for an opportunity to explore their faith. All of the content will be delivered via Zoom and details will be sent out to those who register at www.youth2000.org.uk/events. The course begins on Thursday 18th June until Thursday 6th August from 7.30-8.30pm each week.

Prayers, please

News came to us this week of the very sudden death of Jo Evans, Head of Maths at St. Edmund Arrowsmith High School. Please pray for the repose of her soul, and also for her husband and two children, as well as all her colleagues in school.

Please pray also for the repose of the soul of Julie Herbert of Pretoria Road and Eileen Anderton of Harlech Street who have died recently.

'Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them.'

Re-opening of Churches

The Vigil Mass on Saturday evening for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ will be recorded and uploaded onto the Youtube channel **rchurchesashton** for you to view it on Sunday morning. In addition, there is also a recording to mark what would have been 40 hours of Devotion before the Blessed Sacrament which was due to take place in Our Lady's from Thursday of this week. If you notice a difference in the recording of Mass, it is because this week we received a new toy! - the camera we ordered some weeks ago, with which we hope we will soon be able to livestream Mass and other services for those unable to be in Church.

You will, by now, have heard the announcement, curiously made public late last Saturday evening, that Churches may open for private prayer from Monday 15th June. As those who work in healthcare and education now know only too well, it is much easier to make an announcement than to do what is necessary to make that announcement a reality, which is **not** that Churches will be open **on** Monday, but that **some** Churches will be open for **some** time, sometime **after** Monday.

The Archbishop has decreed that 2 churches per Deanery (i.e. Wigan) will be permitted to open. For ourselves, St. Oswald's, Ashton, and St. John's, Standishgate, Wigan, as town centre Churches which are accessible to more people, have been identified as those which should be opened and the Archbishop has authorised this.

However, this will only take place when the Diocesan Guidelines for the re-opening of Churches (attached) have been met. These include, among other things, the completion of a Risk Assessment check-list, and a team of stewards who will be responsible for ensuring that the infection control measures are adhered to while the Church is open.

As neither of these measures are in place, St. Oswald's Church will NOT be opening on Monday. The intention is to do so at the earliest opportunity but, at the moment, I cannot give a date as to when this will happen.

My hope is to be able to open St. Oswald's each morning from 9.00am-12 noon, and on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 6.00-8.00pm. However, this will only be possible if we have a team of volunteers whose task will be to ensure that:

- the numbers who can safely be allowed in is not exceeded;
 - hand gel is used on arrival and exit;
- social distancing and a one way system for movement within the building is adhered to;
- the place where an individual has sat or knelt is wiped down afterwards.

Two stewards are required at all times and it is important that those in the team should not be drawn from those instructed to shield themselves, nor, as a general rule, from groups considered more vulnerable to coronavirus. The times when the Church is open will be determined by the availability of stewards.

If you feel you are able to commit some time to this during the week, please let Fr John know, as soon as possible, the time and day/days you are available, either by email: j.gorman@rcaol.org.uk or by phone: 01942 727271.

A rota will then be drawn up and the times of opening announced at the earliest opportunity.

DIOCESAN GUIDELINES FOR THE REOPENING OF CHURCHES FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Risk Assessment Check list:

1. A risk assessment check list must be completed prior to any re-opening. No church may be re-opened until this has been completed and the church is in receipt of the letter of authorisation from the Archbishop.

Social Distancing:

2. Churches that were normally opened for private prayer before the Covid 19 restrictions could re-open for private prayer following the health and safety check and if resources available to the parish make it possible.
3. The 2 metre social distancing regulation must be followed at all times by all Individuals without exception.
4. No church may re-open that does not have a separate entrance and exit and can provide a one way system for movement within the building.
5. At least 2 “welcomers” will need to be on duty at all opening times.
6. The Church will know the numbers who can safely be allowed in and this limit must not be exceeded.

Hygiene Control:

7. The Church must be cleaned before any re-opening.
8. Entry and exit doors must, if possible be kept open to minimise contact between individuals and to avoid the shared contact on hard surfaces.
9. The building should be well ventilated (evidence suggests that the virus is less likely to be passed on in these conditions.)
10. There must be hand gel (of a suitable kind) at the entry and exit point.
11. Toilets will not be opened for use. (Except for the use of the welcomers.)

Reserved area/seating:

12. One of the welcomers will wipe down the place where an individual has sat or knelt.
13. Disposable clothes used to do this will need to be disposed of in a separate closed bin.
14. Welcomers will wear the protective aprons and gloves and use the material provided by the Diocese.

Other Guidelines:

15. Out of consideration for others visits should not be prolonged, especially if there are other people waiting to enter the building.
16. Holy water, books, pamphlets, sheets of paper will not be available during visits for private prayer.
17. Votive candle stands must be withdrawn from use.

Review of Guidelines:

These guideline will be kept under review and revised as and when necessary. It is also possible that the authorisation for opening will be withdrawn at very short notice.

Bethlehem Fund

The following letter was received this week from Fr Rami Asakrieh ofm, Parish Priest of Bethlehem:

Dearest Father John,

‘Because of the new coronavirus that spreads illness, death, and catastrophe around the world, virtually no economic sector has been spared from harm especially the tourism sector. Since this pandemic will remain for months and the Bethlehem area relies on tourism, most of the inhabitants have no more source of income.

Therefore, we, the inhabitants of Bethlehem really count ourselves fortunate because we have good and generous people like you who think of us. I would like to thank you especially for your generous donations you gave to the needy families of Bethlehem which was very providential, especially during the period of Coronavirus when, with no work, many new families in need have appeared. Besides the need for medicine, milk, and pampers for the new babies, the Church’s social service office is offering food, electricity and gas...etc. The situation is getting worse.

We know that God is beside us with his people like you. Your prompt cooperation and assistance will be greatly appreciated. I will always remember you in my prayers at the Grotto of the Child Jesus. May the Good Lord bless and protect you now and forever.

Yours in Christ
Fr. Rami Asakrieh OFM , Parish Priest

St. Oswald’s Church

I am pleased to be able to say that the recent installation of the barriers at the entrance to the Church car park on St. Oswald’s Road has had a marked impact in that, as well as giving our neighbours some peace and quiet, the car park is no longer constantly littered with takeaway packages.

Much, however, remains to be done in bringing both the cemetery and the Church grounds in general up to the standard of appearance I am sure we would all wish them to have. When the time is right, I will be asking for volunteers to help with this.

In the meantime, I am most grateful to those who have set about tidying up the area around the Lourdes Grotto and the Calvary, particularly after the most unfortunate incident recently. This is already looking much improved and cared-for. The intention is to create a ‘Garden for Mary’ and an ‘Easter Garden’ with plants associated with Our Lady and the Holy Land. Any donations towards the cost of plants would be most welcome.

In addition, work will begin this weekend on pruning a number of trees within the grounds of the Church, some of which are in a very dangerous state, and I hope that this will also have the effect of opening up the views of the Church.

Catholic Pictorial

The June issue of the Catholic Pic is now available in print and online at <https://bit.ly/3hgt6Iv>. In this issue we fondly remember Bishop Vincent Malone, with our main feature dedicated to his life and work for the Church and the Archdiocese.